



THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE KATE HOGAN
THIRD MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
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House Passes Balanced FY18 Budget

Focuses on supporting vulnerable residents and fostering sustainable economic growth

Representative Kate Hogan joined her colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in passing a \$40.4 billion budget for FY18 that represents a commitment to fiscal responsibility. The spending bill protects vulnerable residents through investments in early education and care, substance addiction initiatives, homelessness programs, and funding to help individuals with developmental disabilities. This budget takes comprehensive action to promote sustained economic health in Massachusetts as we face uncertainty on the national level. For the fourth year in a row, the House budget reduces Massachusetts' reliance on one-time revenue.

Recognizing that municipalities have unique and diverse needs, the House continues to fund local aid at historic levels. This budget increases Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) by \$40 million and local education aid (Chapter 70) by \$106 million. The budget also begins to implement the Foundation Budget Review Commission's recommendations by making adjustments to more accurately reflect employee health benefits through a \$31 million investment. It also adds \$4 million to the special education circuit breaker and increases our investment in regional school transportation by \$1 million. In addition to local education investments, the House funds numerous programs to support college students and provides increased funding for higher education campuses across the state.

"This is a budget that upholds our commitment to education, local government, and the Commonwealth's most vulnerable residents," said Representative Kate Hogan. "Working within the current fiscal climate, the House has produced a balanced budget that makes targeted investments in the vital programs and resources our residents rely on and that, historically, have buoyed Massachusetts towards being the number one state in the nation."

Rep. Hogan secured \$100,000 in the House budget to support the work of the 495/MetroWest Suburban Edge Community Commission, which she co-chairs along with Senator Karen Spilka and Assistant Secretary for Communities and Programs Juan Vega. The funding will go towards completing the Commission's white paper on findings for the region and developing policy responses and recommendations to ensure that suburban "edge" communities, like ours, can participate in state development initiatives and benefit from state resources.

On behalf of her district, Rep. Hogan also secured \$75,000 to be used for the Hudson Commuter Shuttle as well as \$75,000 to be used for the Maynard & Acton Shuttle.

As Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health, during budget deliberations Rep. Hogan presented to her colleagues in the House of Representatives an amendment to increase funding for vital public health services, such as child health care, HIV/AIDS services, domestic violence prevention, and substance abuse services. Since FY12, the Legislature has increased funding for substance addiction services to unprecedented levels and passed two landmark bills to help address this public health epidemic. This year's budget makes notable investments related to behavioral health and addiction, including over \$133 million for the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services.

Additionally, in her role as Chair of the Library Legislative Caucus, Rep. Hogan worked closely with her fellow caucus members to advocate for funding for public libraries. Rep. Hogan successfully sponsored an amendment to restore funding to the Massachusetts Center for the Book, a public-private partnership charged with developing, supporting, and promoting programming that emphasizes the central role libraries play in civic and cultural life.

Rep. Hogan's office will publish an FY18 House Budget Newsletter & Summer Update in the next few weeks, which will provide a further overview of the final budget as well as other news from Beacon Hill and the district. If you don't already receive Rep. Hogan's quarterly e-newsletters, and would like to, please email her Communications Director at Kelsey.Schiller@mahouse.gov to sign up.

The budget will now go to the Senate for its consideration.